

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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R 041531Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WSSHDC 2636

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NEA/AFN FOR AMBASSADOR MULCAHY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR TS US PDIP

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS

1. AS OF NOW, IT APPEARS YOU WILL NOT BE CALLED UPON FOR PUBLIC REMARKS ON ARRIVAL TUNIS AIRPORT. ON CONTINGENCY BASIS, HOWEVER, SUGGEST YOU HAVE BRIEF STATEMENT IN YOUR POCKET. THIS COULD APPROPRIATELY EMPHASIZE YOUR PLEASURE IN BEING BACK IN TUNISIA, OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS, PRIVILEGE OF VERIFYING FOR YOURSELF THE NEWS OF WHICH YOU WELL AWARE THAT TUNISIAN ECONOMY AND SOCIETY HAVE MADE IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS OVER RECENT YEARS. YOU COULD SAY THAT, ARRIVING IN WAKE OF CELEBRATIONS OF TWENTY YEARS OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE, YOU ARE CONSCIOUS THAT THESE WERE TWENTY YEARS OF RAPID CHANGE; BUT THAT THROUGHOUT THOSE YEARS THERE HAVE REMAINED THE CONSTANTS OF: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S WISE AND MODERATE LEADERSHIP; TUNISIA'S OOCATION TO PRAGMATISM, MEDIATION AND DIALOGUE; AND THE STRONG, WARM FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE UNITED STATES WHICH YOU SINCERELY HOPE YOUR EFFORTS AS AMBASSADOR WILL STRENGTHEN STILL FURTHER.

2. THOUGHTS ON YOUR REMARKS ON PRESENTATIN OF LETTER OF CREDENCE FOLLOW. THEY ARE OF COURSE ONLY THOUGHTS, WHICH YOU WILLUNDOUBTEDLY WANT TO ALTER AND REFINE, BUT  
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BASIC IDEA BEHIND THEM WAS TO AVOID TOO MUCH REFERENCE TO

GLORIOUS PAST RELATIONS, AMERICAN AID (NOW MUCH REDUCED), ETC., AND TO TRY TO FOCUS ON THE FUTURE, ON FRANKNESS, AND ON MATURITY OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR REVISED TEXT AND WE WILL CABLE OUR FRENCH TRANSLATION BACK TO YOU. DRAFT TALKING POINTS:

A. DEEPLY HONORED TO BE RECEIVED AS AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;

B. GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE IN RETURNING TO A COUNTRY OF WHICH I HAVE ALREADY SO MANY HAPPY MEMORIES;

C. SINCE I LEFT TUNISIA IN 1970, MANY CHANGES BOTH IN TUNISIA AND IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT THE STAUNCHNESS OF THE FRINDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN A CONSTANT, UNCHANGING;

D. TWO HUNDRED YEARS AFTER OUR AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AND TWENTY YEARS AFTER YOUR EXCELLENCY ACHIEVED THE SAME CHERISHED GOAL FOR THE TUNISIAN NATION, THE UNITED STATES AND TUNISIA FIND THEMSELVES AS MATURE PARTNERS IN MANY FIELDS OF ACTIVITY;

E. I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO MAKE OF THAT PARTNERSHIP A STILL STRONGER BUTTRESS OF THE IDEALS AND VALUES WHICH OUR TWO NATIONS HOLD IN COMMON;

F. IN DOING SO, I BELIEVE IT WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE THAT OUR CONVERSATIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETELY FRANK AND OPEN, AS BEFITS OLD FRIENDS WHO DO NOT ALWAYS AGREE. WE KNOW EACH OTHER TOO WELL TO GLOSS OVER DIFFERENCES WHEN THEY ARISE.

G. I HOPE THAT, JUST AS WE HAVE WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THE PAST, SO MAY WE LOOK FORWARD TOGETHER; THERE ARE OLD ISSUES WHICH THE NEAR FUTURE WILL SEE RESOLVED, ONE HOPES, AND FIRST AMONG THEM THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH RESPECT TO WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE KINDRED VIEWS OF MODERATION AND A WILL FOR PEACE. THERE ARE EMERGEING ISSUES AS TO WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE UNITES STATES HAS MORE RECENTLY TURNED ITS FULL ATTENTION. SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ARE HERE IN AFRICA WHERE, AS ELSEWHERE, THE NAME OF BOURGUIBA IS SO HIGHLY RESPECTED, AND WHERE TUNISIAN INSIGHTS AND TUNISIAN DIPLOMACY CAN PLAY VITAL ROLES IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AFRICAN OBJECTIVES, MANY OF WHICH MY GOVERNMENT SHARES WITH YOURS.

H. WITH YOUR MINISTERS AND WITH YOU I SAHLL HAVE MANY OCCASIONS, I HOPE, TO SPEAK OF AMERICA'S GOALS AND DESIRES WITH RESPECT TO THE MANY MATTERS THAT MAY ARISE IN MULTILATERAL MEETINGS SUCH AS THE UNITED NAOIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE VERIOUS GROUPS NOW CONDUCTING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. I INTEND TO BE FRANK CONCERNING THESE MATTERS WHICH HAVE NOT ALWAYS RECEIVED THE SAME STRONG ATTENTION IN MY GOVERNMENT AS HAVE STRICTLY BILATERAL PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS. I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE JUST AS FRANK WITH ME, AND THAT WE WILL ALWAYS TALK IN CONCRETE TERMS, BOTH SIDES STRIVING TO RESPECT AND SUPPORT THE VITAL CONCERNS OF THE OTHER EVEN MORE SCRUPULOUSLY THAN WE HAVE DONE BEFORE. WHERE THE UNITED STATES CAN HELP TUNISIA, IT WILL DO SO, AND I KNOW THAT TUNISIA WILL ALWAYS BE RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTIONS ON HOW SHE MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO US.

I. THERE IS A DEEP WELL OF FRIENDSHIP FROM THE PAST FROM WHICH WE CAN DRAW STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE FUTURE. I DEDICATE MYSELF TO THE SEARCH FOR WAYS IN WHICH THAT FRIENDSHIP CAN BE STRENGTHENED AND MADE STILL MORE VALUABLE TO US BOTH.

J. I LOOK FORWARD WITH IMMEASURABLE D IRVFACTION TO HAVING THE BENEFIT OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S INSIGHTS AND COUNSEL.

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